

18334 U.S. PTO
08/28/03

MS: PATENT APPLICATION

ASA-725-03

22386 U.S. PTO
10/649666
08/28/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: Y. AOYAMA et al
Serial No. 10/051,037
Filed: January 22, 2002

Group Art Unit: 2172
Examiner: J. Fleurantin
For: DOCUMENT PROCESSING METHOD AND
SYSTEM, AND COMPUTER-READABLE
RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING DOCUMENT
PROCESSING PROGRAM RECORDED THEREIN

REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION APPLICATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)

MS: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 28, 2003

Sir:

This is a request for filing a continuation application under 37 CFR §1.53(b) of pending prior application Serial No. 10/051,037, filed on January 22, 2002, entitled DOCUMENT PROCESSING METHOD AND SYSTEM, AND COMPUTER-READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING DOCUMENT PROCESSING PROGRAM RECORDED THEREIN, by all of the inventors named in the prior application.

1. Enclosed is a copy of the prior application, including the Declaration as originally filed.

2. The Filing Fee is calculated below:

**CLAIMS AS FILED IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION
LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELED BY ACCOMPANYING PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PLUS ANY CLAIMS ADDED BY ACCOMPANYING PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|-----------|
| Basic Fee | | | | | | | | | \$ 750.00 |
| Total Claims | 1 | - | 20 | = | 0 | x | 18 | = | 0.00 |
| Independent Claims | 1 | - | 3 | = | 0 | x | 84 | = | 0.00 |
| Total Filing Fee | | | | | | | | | \$ 750.00 |

3. A credit card payment form including the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

5. New drawings are enclosed, twenty-six (26) sheets, Figs. 1-32.

6. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293
Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Registration No. 31,174
Shrinath Malur, Registration No. 34,663
Daniel J. Stanger, Registration No. 32,846
Gene W. Stockman, Registration No. 21,021.

There is no change in the correspondence address.

Address all future correspondence to:

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Please associate this application with Customer No. 24956.

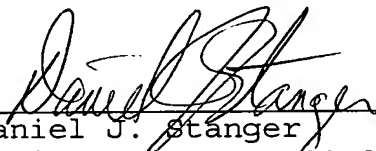
7. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd..

8. Priority of the following Japanese patent applications is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 09-197907, filed July 8, 1997; and
No. 10-117803, filed April 13, 1998.

The certified priority documents have been filed in the prior application.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed in the present continuation application would have been new matter in the prior application Serial No. 10/051,037 as originally filed on January 22, 2002.


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Attorney of Record

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Date: August 28, 2003